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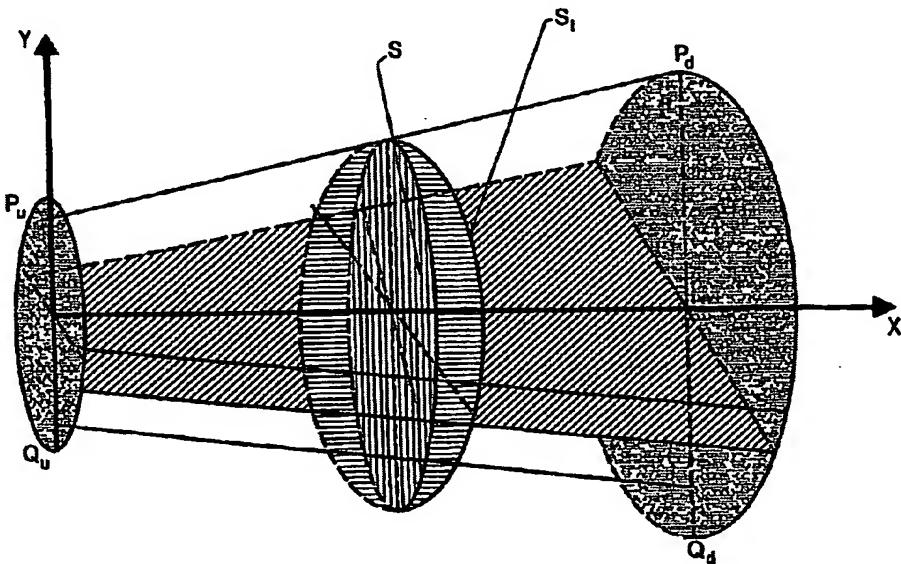
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMIZATION OF VESSEL CENTERLINES



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(57) **Abstract:** Methods are provided for optimizing a vessel centerline in a digital image. For instance, a method includes providing a digital image of a vessel wherein said image comprises a plurality of intensities corresponding to a domain of points in a D-dimensional space, initializing a centerline comprising a plurality of points in the vessel (step 20), determining a cross section of the vessel at each point in the centerline (step 21), evaluating a center point for each cross section of the vessel (step 22), and determining a refined centerline from the center points of each cross section (step 23).